

Georgia Department of Human Resources

TUBERCULOSIS IN GEORGIA

New Cases of TB

THE NUMBERS

- 504 tuberculosis (TB) cases were reported in Georgia in 2006 - a 3.2% percent decrease from 508 cases in 2005.
- The counties reporting the highest number of TB cases in 2006 were: Fulton (72), DeKalb (61), Gwinnett (59), and Cobb (30).
- TB cases were predominantly male (65%), African American (56%) and US-born (63%).
- One multi-drug resistant case was reported in 2005 and 22 cases (6%) were resistant to Isoniazid.
- 92% of TB patients scheduled to complete treatment for active disease by 2005 completed a full course of treatment; and 96 percent received directly observed therapy (DOT).
- In 2005, the year for which we have updated contact data, approximately 735 contacts of active TB cases were infected with latent TB and 62% completed treatment to prevent progression to active TB disease.

Year	Cases
2006	504
2005	508
2004	539
2003	532
2002	535
2001	577
2000	695
1999	670
1998	630
1997	695
1996	792
1995	735
1994	740
1993	809

THE RESOURCES

- During FY 2006, the Department of Human Resources (DHR) spent \$6.7 million, including \$4.2 million in state funds and \$2.5 million in federal funds, to treat and prevent TB in Georgia. More than \$1 million was set aside for medications to treat TB patients.
- Directly observed therapy (DOT) is available in all health districts. DOT means that public health staff arrange for a responsible person to make sure the patient takes medication consistently, either at home, at work, or in a clinic or doctor's office. When patients do not take the complete course of TB medication they may develop drug-resistant strains of the bacteria.
- Since 1996, the Georgia Department of Human Resources, in collaboration with the American Lung Association - SE Region, has been providing DOT, housing and social services to homeless infectious TB patients statewide.
- When hospitalization is necessary for acute care of a person with TB, DHR has contracts with public and private hospitals. Grady Memorial Hospital in Atlanta has 73 isolation beds for patients either suspected of or diagnosed as having infectious TB. Other hospitals throughout the state have smaller numbers of beds for infectious TB patients.
- The Georgia Department of Corrections screens all of its 47,000 prisoners at entry and annually. During calendar year 2006, 35 TB cases were residents of correctional facilities.
- For more information about tuberculosis in Georgia, contact (404) 657-2634 or visit <http://health.state.ga.us/programs/tb>.

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Office of Communications

www.dhr.georgia.gov

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